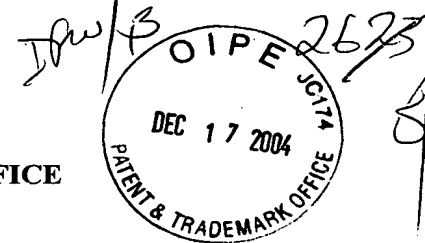


Docket No. 0557-4962-2



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Sadao TAKAHASHI

SERIAL NO: 09/551,466

GAU: 2623

FILED: April 17, 2000

EXAMINER: Dastouri, Mehrdad

FOR: IMAGE BINARIZATION APPARATUS, IMAGE BINARIZATION METHOD, IMAGE PICKUP APPARATUS, IMAGE PICKUP METHOD, AND A COMPUTER PRODUCT

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

**REFERENCES**

- ☒ The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449 and German Office Action. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- ☒ A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

**RELATED CASES**

- ☐ Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s), published application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. In accordance with the waiver of 37 CFR 1.98 dated September 21, 2004, copies of the cited pending applications are not provided. Cited published and/or issued patents, if any, are listed on the attached PTO form 1449.
- ☐ A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

**CERTIFICATION**

- ☒ Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- ☐ No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**

- ☒ Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

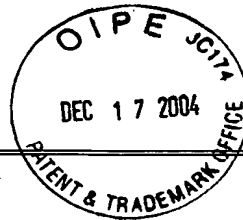
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Registration No. 34,423



Form PTO 1449 (Modified)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 0557-4962-2		SERIAL NO. 09/551,466	
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT				APPLICANT Sadao TAKAHASHI			
				FILING DATE April 17, 2000		GROUP 2623	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,450,163	9/12/1995	IWASAKI			
	AB	5,796,876	8/18/1998	WANG, et al.			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
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	AK						
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION YES NO		
	AO						
	AP						
	AQ						
	AR						
	AS						
	AT						
	AU						
	AV						
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
	AW						
	AX						
	AY						
	AZ					<input type="checkbox"/> Additional References sheet(s) attached	
Examiner					Date Considered		
*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							